

VZCZCXR07686

PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO
DE RUEHGO #0961 3660527
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 310527Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8494
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1683
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5164
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8760
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6332
RHJMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4175
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2154
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000961

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND IO; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/30/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM BM

SUBJECT: BURMA: NINE PROTESTORS ARRESTED IN RANGOON

Classified By: Pol Officer Sean O'Neill for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

¶11. (SBU) On December 30, authorities arrested nine NLD members as they staged a procession in Rangoon calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. Two Embassy staff saw the protestors carrying a banner that read "Free Aung San Suu Kyi" as they passed in front of Shwedagon Pagoda and the old parliament building. Another off-duty staff member photographed the protestors being rounded up into a police truck in the same area.

¶12. (C) NLD spokesman Nyan Win confirmed that the eight men and one woman were NLD members (see list in para 4). He told us that earlier in the day, the nine had attended a discussion at NLD headquarters led by recently-released NLD member U Khin Maung Swe entitled "Youth and Freedom." In all, approximately 70 persons attended the discussion, according to Nyan Win. The NLD spokesman stressed, however, that the protest was not related to this event and told us that U Khin Maung Swe did not encourage these persons to protest.

¶13. (C) Our Regional Security Office's contacts with the Special Branch of Police (SB) confirmed that authorities arrested nine protestors on December 30. SB officials identified the detainees as NLD members, but did not provide any additional information as to their whereabouts or charges that may be filed against them. RSO's police sources also confirmed that security in town has been enhanced in anticipation of Burmese Independence Day on January 4.

¶14. (C) Below is the list of arrested NLD members as provided by Nyan Win:

- Htet Htet Oo Wai (female);
- Tun Tun Win;
- Tun Lin;
- Pyae Pyae;
- Kaung Htet Hlaing;
- Aung Phyo Wai;
- Thet Maung Tun;
- Win Myint Maung; and
- Min Thein.

VAJDA